



**Ellis Island Records** create links to millions of immigrant ancestors from all over the world. Use this website to learn about Ellis Island records, Ellis Island immigrants, museum and archive information, and tips for using immigration records for genealogy research.

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## Ellis Island Immigrants



Nearly half of the population of the United States can trace their roots to Ellis Island. Immigrants are an important part of our heritage. Below are some interesting statistics of how the United States has been shaped by our immigrant ancestors.

<b>Search For Your Ancestors In Historic Records:</b>			
Enter as much information as you know about your ancestor and click search:			
First Name:	Last Name:	Location:	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Distribution of Immigrants Before 1790:

Africa:	360,000
England:	230,000
Ulster:	135,000
Germany:	103,000
Scotland:	48,500
Ireland:	8,000
Netherlands:	6,000
Wales:	4,000
France:	3,000
Jews:	2,000
Sweden:	500

### 1790 U.S. Ancestry Groups:

English:	1,900,000
African:	750,000
Scotch-Irish:	320,000
German:	280,000
Irish:	200,000
Scottish:	160,000
Welsh:	120,000

### TIMELINE OF IMMIGRATION TO U.S. 1815-1950

1815:	The first great wave of immigration begins, bringing 5 million immigrants between 1815 and 1860.
1818:	Liverpool becomes the most-used port of departure for Irish and British immigrants.
1819:	The first federal legislation on immigration requires notation of passenger lists.
1820:	The U.S. population is about 9.6 million. About 151,000 new immigrants arrive in 1820 alone.
1825:	Great Britain decrees that England is overpopulated and repeals laws prohibiting emigration. The first group of Norwegian immigrants arrive.
1846-7:	Crop failures in Europe. Mortgage foreclosures send tens of thousands of the dispossessed to United States.
1846:	Irish of all classes emigrate to the United States as a result of the potato famine.
1848:	German political refugees emigrate following the failure of a revolution.
1862:	The Homestead Act encourages naturalization by granting citizens title to 160 acres.
1875:	First limitations on immigration. Residency permits required of Asians.
1880:	The U.S. population is 50,155,783. More than 5.2 million immigrants enter the country between 1880 and 1890.

## Ellis Island Immigrants

Dutch:	100,000
French:	80,000
Native Am. :	50,000
Spanish:	20,000
Swedish and other	20,000

1882:	Chinese exclusion law is established. Russian anti-Semitism prompts a sharp rise in Jewish emigration.
1890:	New York is home to as many Germans as Hamburg, Germany.
1891:	The Bureau of Immigration is established. Congress adds health qualifications to immigration restrictions.
1892:	Ellis Island replaces Castle Garden.
1894-6:	To escape Moslem massacres, Armenian Christians emigrate.
1897:	Pine-frame buildings on Ellis Island are burned to the ground in a disastrous fire.
1900:	The U.S. population is 75,994,575. More than 3,687,000 immigrants were admitted in the previous ten years. Ellis Island receiving station reopens with brick and ironwork structures.
1906:	Bureau of Immigration is established.
1910:	The Mexican Revolution sends thousands to the United States seeking employment.
1914-8:	World War I halts a period of mass migration to the United States.
1921:	The first quantitative immigration law sets temporary annual quotas according to nationality. Immigration drops off.
1924:	The National Origins Act establishes a discriminatory quota system. The Border Patrol is established.
1940:	The Alien Registration Act calls for registration and fingerprinting of all aliens. Approximately 5 million aliens register.
1946:	The War Brides Act facilitates the immigration of foreign-born wives, fiances, husbands, and children of U.S. Armed Forces personnel.
1952:	The Immigration and Naturalization Act brings into one comprehensive statute the multiple laws that govern immigration and naturalization to date.
1954:	Ellis Island closes, marking an end to mass immigration.

### CENSUS RECORDS

Valuable immigrant data you can find in many census records:

- Year of immigration
- No. of years in U.S.
- Naturalization status
- Year of naturalization
- Native language
- Father's native language
- Mother's native language

[Search Census Records](#)

### FOREIGN RECORDS

[Click Here](#) to access the following International record collections free for 14 days:

All UK/Ireland Records

Immigration Records

Ireland Records

Wales Records

England Records

Scotland Records

International Databases

[Click Here](#) to access the world's largest online collection of historical records free for 14 days.

*These dates are excerpted from The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy, Chapter 13: "Immigration: Finding Immigration Origins," revised edition, edited by Kory L. Meyerink and Loretto Dennis Szucs.*

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